

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the title of the specification is amended and claim 15 is added. No new matter is added.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

The indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3-5, 7-9 and 12-14 is appreciated, they being allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of their base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 3-5, 7-9 and 12-14, as well as the remaining pending claims, are in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed below.

II. Specification

The title of the invention is alleged to not be descriptive. The title is amended in reply to the allegation in the Office Action.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,232,238 to Saito et al. (Saito). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Saito fails to disclose each and every feature recited in the rejected claims. For example, Saito fails to disclose an ac generator for a vehicle comprising . . . a common connector including internal terminals that connect the regulator with an internal circuit of at least one of the rectifying device and the rotor; and an individual connector connected to the common connector, the individual connector including external terminals that receive and transmit electric signals from and to an external circuit, wherein the common connector and the individual connector further include intermediate terminals contacting with each other and engaging portions engaging with each other, the engaging portions being formed of projections and recesses.

Saito relates to a rectifier assembly for an ac generator for use with vehicles (col. 1, lines 7-11). The ac generator of Saito includes a stator, a rectifier assembly 4 and a voltage

regulator 6 (col. 2, lines 25-48). The voltage regulator 6 comprises a power transistor 6a for on-off switching of the exciting current of the field coil 2, and a power transistor controlling circuit 6b having voltage detecting terminals 6e and 6d. Terminals 7a and 7b for dc output of the rectifier, serve as mounting bolts and are connected to a storage battery 10 as an electric load which is carried by the vehicle (col. 2, lines 44-50). The rectifier 4 further includes a conductor plate 15 and conductive plate 14 which are electrically insulated from each other except for the connection to the control circuit 6b (col. 3, lines 25-27). The conductor plates 14 and 15 have rectifier units 5a, 5b and 5c disposed between the common conductor plates. Each rectifier unit includes three rectifier elements fixed to the base plate. The rectifier elements constitute the main rectifier circuit, of which one terminal is connected through the hole H to the earth, and the other terminals connect to the conductor plate 15 having the dc terminal 7a (col. 3, lines 32-42).

It is alleged in the Office Action that the conductor plate 15 corresponds to the common connector recited in the rejected claims and that the bolts 7a and 7b correspond to the individual connector recited in the rejected claims. However, the bolts 7a and 7b are provided as output terminals of the rectifier, a one of which is provided as a ground. Therefore, the terminals 7a and 7b do not correspond to the individual connector as recited in the claims as being connected to the common connector and including external terminals that receive and transmit electric signals from and to an external circuit. Additionally, Saito also fails to disclose that the connector connects a regulator with the external circuit.

Moreover, although it is alleged in the Office Action that the conductor plate 15 includes internal terminals that connect the regulator with an internal circuit of at least one of the rectifying device in the rotor, no support for the allegation is provided in the Office Action. Rather, the Office Action merely identifies Fig. 3 as disclosing all of these features. However, the figure fails to show each and every feature and how they may be put together.

Similarly, there is no support in the Office Action that the bolts 7a and 7b include external terminals that receive and transmit electric signals from and to an external circuit or that the bolts 7a and 7b and the conductor plate 15 further includes intermediate terminals contacting with each other and engaging portions engaging with each other engaging portions being formed of projections and recesses. Rather, the Office Action and this reference merely points to Fig. 2 for support. However, this figure also fails to disclose each and every feature and how they may be put together.

MPEP §2125 recites that drawings can anticipate claims only if they clearly show the claimed structure and that the pictures must show all of the claim structural features and how they are put together. In this case, the figures of Saito fail to disclose any such structural features. Moreover, the accompanying specification to those figures also fails to disclose the features recited in the rejected claims.

In rejecting claims 2 and 6, the Office Action merely recites the language of the claims and alleges that Saito discloses such features without providing any support for such allegations. For example, it is alleged that the conductor plate 15 of Saito is connectable with each of a plurality of individual connectors having different shapes. However, there is no support for such an allegation in the Saito reference. Similarly, the Office Action merely recites the language of claim 6 that includes each of the intermediate terminals of the common connector and the intermediate terminals of the individual connector are posed to and paired with each other. As discussed above, there is no disclosure of such intermediate terminals in Saito nor could there be such intermediate terminals between a bolt and a plate.

For at least these reasons, withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 2, 6 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) is respectfully requested.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Saito in view of JP 08085402. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 11 is allowable for at least its dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above, as well as for the additional features recited therein. Additionally, it is admitted in the Office Action that Saito fails to disclose that the regulator is mounted on the individual connector. In an effort to overcome the admitted deficiency, the Office Action combines the foreign language reference of Shibata relying on the Figs. 7 and 9 of that reference as providing the admittedly deficient feature.

When relying on a foreign language reference only the language which is provided in English may be relied upon. Moreover, as stated above, the figures may be relied upon only when they clearly show the claim structure. As the English-language Abstract of the foreign language reference fails to disclose such features, reliance on the foreign language reference figures is improper. Moreover, there can be no motivation to combine the reference without an English-language translation to provide the adequate support. Without such a translation, there may be no way of knowing if the reference includes a teaching away of the proposed combination. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

V. New Claim

None of the applied references, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest each and every feature recited in claim 15. For example, the combination of references fails to disclose or suggest the ac generator according to claim 1, wherein the external terminals of the individual connector connect the external circuit with the regulator.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-15 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

John W. Fitzpatrick
Registration No. 41,018

JAO:JWF/ldg

Date: March 13, 2006

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT USE
AUTHORIZATION
Please grant any extension
necessary for entry;
Charge any fee due to our
Deposit Account No. 15-0461